

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

D 13. (Thrice amended) A nucleic acid encoding a protein comprising more than two homologous antigenic peptides from the same domain from different genotypes of hepatitis C virus.

D 2 17. (Amended) A nucleic acid encoding a protein comprising more than two antigenic peptides from the same domain from different genotypes of hepatitis C virus and wherein the mosaic protein comprises the amino acid sequences set forth in SEQ ID NOS:23-33.

D 3 19. (Amended) A nucleic acid encoding a protein comprising more than two antigenic peptides from the same domain from different genotypes of hepatitis C virus, wherein the antigenic peptides are from non-structural proteins, and wherein the mosaic protein comprises the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:52.

Please add new claims:

D 4 31. (New) A nucleic acid encoding a mosaic protein comprising more than two homologous antigenic peptides from different genotypes or subtypes of a species, wherein the antigenic peptides are selected from the amino acid sequences set forth in SEQ ID NOS:23-33.